

**Minutes of the East Greenwich School Committee  
Tuesday, December 7, 2010  
Hanaford School Cafeteria  
200 Middle Road  
East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE**

**6:05p.m.** Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Sommer to go into Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2) to discuss Paraprofessional Contract Negotiations and Possible Litigation-Field's Project.

The regular session of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order in the Hanaford School Cafeteria at 7:07p.m. by School Committee Clerk Christine DiMeglio. Those in attendance were Dr. Deidre Gifford, Chair; Mr. Bob Durant; Mr. Paul Martin; Mrs. Susan Records; Mrs. Mary Ellen Winters; Mr. Jack Sommer, and Mr. David Green. Director of Administration Mrs. Maryanne Crawford and Director of Student Services Paula Dillon were also present.

**7:07p.m.** Regular meeting

**I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Chair Dr. Gifford acknowledged incoming new School Committee members Mr. David Green and Mr. Jack Sommer.

**II. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Nominations were held for Chair and Vice-Chair. On a motion by Mrs. Winters, Dr. Deidre Gifford was unanimously appointed as Chair. Mr. Bob Durant was nominated and unanimously appointed as Vice-Chair.

**III. Public Comments**

Bradley Lockhart, a senior at EGHS addressed the Committee noting technology problems at EGHS. He discussed log-in issues, problems with batteries/laptops and the time spent waiting for equipment to boot-up. He suggested allowing students and teachers the opportunity to use their own equipment at EGHS. Dr. Gifford will ask the Technology Committee to make recommendations to the Committee regarding inadequacies at the high school. Mrs. Records stated that perhaps a pilot program can be developed to let students bring in their equipment.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the executive session minutes of November 9, 2010 and regular session minutes of November 16, 2010 were approved.

**V. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Mercurio thanked Cole staff/students who attended the Superintendent's Summit regarding school climate. Approximately 40 students attended the summit which focused on bullying. Next week there is a meeting to debrief and review student ideas. Dr. Mercurio also thanked Ann O'Grady and the cast of the Wizard of Oz for the excellent performance that took place on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> at the EGHS.

**VI. Action Items**

**a. Appointments**

On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the following appointments were unanimously approved by the Committee:

1. Paula Glod, EGHS, Advisor Yearbook
2. Meredith Whitaker, .4FTE Reading Specialist, Frenchtown, Grant-funded (ARRA) for one year only
3. David Estrada, EGHS, Head Coach Boys' Swimming
4. Lauren Estrada, EGHS, Head Coach Girls' Swimming
5. Kathryn Brito, EGHS, Head Coach Girls' Hockey Cheerleading

6. Kyle Mushaweh, EGHS, Boys' Asst Indoor Track Coach
7. Stacey Munzert, EGHS, Head Coach Girls' Competition Cheerleading/Basketball
8. Audrey Nazareth, Cole, Head Coach Girls' Cheerleading
9. James Westell, EGHS, Volunteer Wrestling Coach
10. Karissa LeBlanc, 1:1 Paraprofessional, Hanaford School

The 1:1 Paraprofessional position at Hanaford School is an appointment and not a request for a new position. Mr. Martin asked how many of these appointments are going to be filled by current employees. Mrs. Crawford noted that Stacey Munzert is the only employee. It was noted that Paula Glod has been the Advisor for the Yearbook for the past five years. Mr. Martin asked whether the salary for these appointments is based on a step process. Mrs. Crawford noted that it is not and is based on a ten step process (which increases each year for the same appointee).

**b. Resignation**

On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the resignation of Lee Walker was unanimously accepted.

**c. Field Trip-New York City: Bronx Zoo and Broadway Show, EGHS, May 4, 2011**

On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the field trip.

**d. Field Trip-Six Flags, Agawam, Massachusetts, EGHS, May 20, 2011**

On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the field trip.

**e. Home School-Grade 1 and Grade 2 student**

On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the home school request.

**f. Request for new position-One year Paraprofessional at Meadowbrook School**

This request was tabled at the November 16, 2010 meeting for clarification. Mrs. Dillon provided an in-depth summary of the request. On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mr. Greene, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the request.

**g. Approval of 2011-2012 East Greenwich High School Program of Study**

Principal Militello outlined the proposed changes to the program of study. Dr. Mercurio noted that the Program of Study needs to include language that denotes "Acceptance by RIDE and the Board of Regents." Mr. Militello discussed the track changes and noted the removal of "Students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate proficiency by retaking the state tests, passing other tests, or submitting other evidence of proficiency" which is based on the Board of Regents requirements. Mr. Durant questioned the NEASC directives in regards to the changes made for 2011-2012. Mr. Militello noted that changes were made in Math, English, and Science to reflect the NEASC initiatives. Dr. Gifford questioned the paragraph regarding "EGHS courses which meet beyond the normal school day...." and asked why this language is being removed. It was noted this language is being removed due to the removal of study halls. Dr. Gifford also questioned the removal of language under "Course changes" in reference to pupil requests. Dr. Gifford would like the language revised to reflect a balance between students/family and staff. On a motion made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mrs. Records, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the 2011-2012 East Greenwich High School Program of Study with the requested language changes.

**h. Technology Committee recommendations for Cole Middle School**

Dr. Mercurio discussed the handout, "How Does Cole's Technology RFP Create a School Prototype?" Meetings were held with Cole staff members, SMMA, SBS, and the Technology Advisory Committee to develop the Cole Technology RFP. The goal is to make Cole as flexible as possible and ensure that the infrastructure is sustainable over a period of time. This RFP will be a technology template/prototype for other schools in the district. Patrick Weygint of SMMA gave an overview of the RFP and discussed the infrastructure discussing the equipment to be installed. Mr. Nettik also discussed the infrastructure necessary to support education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and noted the goal is to keep classrooms operating at peak efficiency now and in the future. Mr. Sommer asked about the age of the equipment at the high

school and it was noted that equipment was purchased on lease and is five years old. Mr. Nettik also discussed fiber connections between schools and noted Frenchtown School would be the only issue due to its location.

Sophomore Divya Mahadevan spoke to the Committee about the importance of technology to students at the high school and how technology issues/breakdowns impede the learning process. Mr. Seger and Mrs. Zanella discussed the Edu 2.0 portal and how Cole is using this tool as a resource for lessons, communication with staff, students, and parents, homework assistance, discussions, and as an overall organizational tool. Edu 2.0 is web-hosted, compliments I-Parent and Schoolmax, and is free. The Committee further discussed the RFP and questioned the process of selecting computers. Mr. Romeo, SBS, noted that Cole staff members, the Superintendent, and the Technology Committee were involved in the process. Dr. Gifford questioned the positioning of the new computers in the building. Mr. Sullivan, SBS, noted that all teachers will receive a laptop; a cart will be issued per team, and desktops will be available in “lab” type rooms including the library. All classrooms will have LCD projectors and classrooms will have their own sound systems. One microphone will be shared per team, along with student responders. Mrs. Records noted that the list of technology items has been prioritized. On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee unanimously approved the recommended RFP for Cole Middle School.

#### **i. Approval of School Committee meeting dates for 2011 & venue change**

The Committee discussed possibly venue changes for the upcoming 2011 meetings. Dr. Gifford would like to look into the possibility of using Swift Community Center until the new Cole Middle School opens in April. Mr. Martin noted the possibility of using a different elementary school once a month. Dr. Mercurio noted that the RIDE Commissioner will visit East Greenwich in March and a large venue may be needed for that meeting. On a motion by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mr. Sommer, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the School Committee meeting dates for 2011 and noted that the location of meetings may need to be amended.

### **VII. Discussion Items**

#### **a. Funding Formula-Dave Abbott**

Mr. Dave Abbott, Deputy Commissioner of RIDE discussed the funding formula for Rhode Island. Mr. Abbott outlined the components of the funding formula including the three key components: Core Instructional Amount, Student Success Factor, and State Share Ratio. The Core Instruction per Pupil Amount for Rhode Island is approximately \$8,300.00. Mr. Abbott noted the Basic Education Program (BEP) was recently updated on July 1, 2010. Right now it is not clear how the funding formula will impact East Greenwich until the General Assembly meets. However, Mr. Abbott stated the overall impact to East Greenwich may be in the single digits. Mr. Durant questioned the use of daily membership and what school year figures are used in the process. Mr. Abbott noted that the funding formula uses the immediately ending school year and next year the 2009-2010 school year figures will be used. Mr. Abbott noted that approximately 50% of Rhode Island students are eligible for free and reduced lunch because the poverty rate in Rhode Island has increased. Mr. Martin questioned whether there is still a drop in enrollment when eighth graders move up to the high school. Mrs. Meyer noted that they still see a drop and Mr. Martin stated there needs to be a special effort to try to keep students in the system. Mr. Martin also questioned the denial of home schooling. Dr. Mercurio stated that the district abides by policy and there is no reason to deny parents the right to home school.

#### **b. Finance Committee-Budget Process**

Mr. Durant would like to send out notice to community members that there are openings for people to join the Finance Committee. The district list serv and other means will be used to notify the community. Mr. Durant asked Mrs. Crawford about the UCOA account numbers. Mrs. Crawford noted that numerous changes have been made to account numbers and the numbers may not compare as closely as last year. She noted the new breakdown is more detailed than in the past. Dr. Gifford would like Finance Committee Members to pair up with their assigned partner and report back to the Committee at the January 4, 2011 meeting. Mr. Durant noted that the process is starting later than last year and members need to prioritize. He suggests looking at what is being proposed this year, look at last year's purchases,

and also look at the items that were not acted on last year. Mrs. Records would like members from the Technology Advisory Committee to be part of the budget process. Mr. Martin questioned the work of subcommittees as per the School Committee by-laws. Dr. Gifford noted the December 21, 2010 School Committee meeting will address the assignment of School Committee members to subcommittees.

**c. Mr. Martin's report on school visitations**

Mr. Martin asked that this item be tabled again until the next meeting.

**VIII. School Committee Concerns**

Mr. Martin would like the Athletic Director to give a seasonal report on the sports program. He requested a fall report at the next School Committee meeting.

**IX. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Mr. Durant and seconded by Mrs. Winters, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

CHRISTINE DIMEGLIO  
SECRETARY